

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 INR-05 EB-03 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 L-01 OMB-01

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P 100732Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3352

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1567

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR IR SO US

SUBJECT: US AND IRANIAN FINANCIAL HELP TO SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 1289: (R 031020Z SEP 75) (NOTAL)

1. IRANIAN CHARGE FAKHREDIN ABOLMAALI HAS INFORMED US THAT IRANIAN DELEGATION LED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF FINANCE MASMOUDI WILL VISIT SOMALIA TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE IRANIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IRANIAN DECISION TO SEND DELEGATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SIAD'S RECENT APPEAL TO CHARGE FOR IRANIAN AID.

2. ABOLMAALI HAS JUST INFORMED GSDR VICE PRESIDENT CULMIE -- WHO LEADS GSDR ECONOMIC COMMITTEE -- OF TEHRAN'S DECISION TO SEND DELEGATION. CULMIE ASKED HIM FOR LETTER WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY AREAS
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OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AND PROVIDE BASIS FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTIONS GSDR EVIDENTLY WANTS ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AGREEING TO DATES ARE FORM AND CHARACTER OF IRANIAN AID.

3. IRANIAN CHARGE BELIEVES GSDR WILL WANT IRAN TO PROVIDE UNCOMMITTED GRANT OR CASH ASSISTANCE. HE IS OPPOSED TO SUCH AID AND BELIEVES TEHRAN FEELS SIMILARLY BUT SAID THAT PROBLEM IRAN

FACES IS ONE OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ABLE TO OVERSEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE HAS INFORMALLY SOUGHT OUR GUIDANCE IN REPLYING TO GSDR REQUEST.

4. IN DISCUSSION WITH ABOLMAALI NOVEMBER 8, WE SUGGESTED THAT HE INFORM VICE PRESIDENT CULMIE THAT IRANIAN DELEGATION WISHES LOOK AT SOMALI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS NOW BEING PLANNED UNDER AEGIS OF WORLD BANK. IBRD TEAM IS NOW IN MOGADISCIO AND WILL MEET WITH GSDR COUNTERPARTS HERE NOVEMBER 10 - 12 IN PRE-NEGOTIATION DISCUSSIONS FOR US \$60 MILLION REHABILITATION PROJECT DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO SETTLE NOMADS IN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTH. WHILE DONORS FOR US \$ 60 MILLION PROJECT HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUND (I.E., WORLD BANK, KUWAIT FUND, ARAB FUND AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK) IBRD HAS ON SHELF SOME US \$ 25 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL RELATED PROJECTS IN UNITS OF US \$ 5 MILLION OR SO AWAITING FUNDING. IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROJECTS COULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER TECHNICAL GUIDANCE OF IBRD CONSULTANTS INVOLVED IN US \$60 MILLION R & R PROJECT AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE IRANIAN STAFFING.

5. WE SUGGESTED THAE IN HIS REPLY TO CULMIE, ABOLMAALI NEED BE NO MORE SPECIFIC THAN THIS, AND THAT MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE ONCE IRANIAN GROUP ARRIVES IN MOGADISCIO. PRELIMINARY STUDIES FOR US \$ 25 MILLION IN IBRD SHELF PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED AND COULD PROVE ATTRACTIVE TO IRANIANS; IT ALSO OCCURS TO US THAT IRANIANS MIGHT BE ABLE TO TALK TO SOMALIS ABOUT IRANIAN OIL; SOMALIS NOW OBTAIN OIL FROM SOVIETS AT WORLD PRICES, MUCH OF IT FROM IRAQ.

6. ABOLMAALI IS VEHEMENTLY ANTI-SOVIET. FORMERLY IRANIAN CONSUL AT BAKU, HE HAS WRITTEN BOOK ON USSR WHICH IS STILL IN MANUSCRIPT BUT WHICH HE IS KEEPING IN HIS BRIEFCASE PENDING HIS REASSIGNMENT FROM MOGADISCIO. HE IS HARD-LINER WHO PERSONALLY OPPOSES IRANIAN AID TO SOMALIA SOXONG WW SOVIETS SO ENTRENCHED HERE. HE FAVORS IMMEDIATE SOMALI REDUCTION OF SOVIET POWER AND INFLUENCE AS QUID PRO QUO FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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IRANIAN AID -- AN EXPECTATION WHICH IS WHOLLY UNREALISTIC IN TERMS OF SIAD'S POWER POSITION, HIS IDEOLOGICAL NEEDS AND HIS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AMBITIONS (REFTEL).

7. IF IRANIAN DELEGATION FOLLOWS ABOLMAALI'S LEAD AND MAKES IT CLEAR TO GSDR THAT IRANIAN ASSISTANCE DEPENDS UPON REDUCTION OF SOVIET ROLE, THEN WE BELIYME DOOR WILL BE CLOSED TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MORE REALISTIC APPROACH BY IRANIANS

WHICH REFLECTS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SIAD REGIME AND HIS PROBLEMS
VIS-A-V I USSR (REFTEL) MIGHT ULTIMATELY BENEFIT BOTH IRAN AND U.S.

8. IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD FIRST
OFALL HELP DEMONSTRATE TO SIAD AND HIS REGIME THAT US AND ITS
FRIENDS ARE NOT RPT NOT HOSTILE TO SOMALIA, AS SOVIET ADVISORS ALLEGE,

AND DO NOT RPT NOT SEE EITHER SIAD'S DOWNFALL OR SOMALIA'S CONTINUED
ISOLATION, IN HORN OF AFRICA, IN ARAB LEAGUE OR IN AREA, WHICH IS A
FURTHER PAGE FROM SOVIET BRIEFING BOOK WITH SIAD. IRANIAN PARTICIP-
ATION IN SOMALI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD HELP BROADEN SIAD'S
SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID, WOULD REDUCE HIS DEPENDENCY UPON
USSR AND ITS SATELLITES, AND IN OUR VIEW FURTHER HIS ABILITY TO LIMIT
MILITARY CONCESSIONS SOVIETS SEEK IN SOMALIA AND WHAT THEY MAY
OBTAIN IF SOMALI ISOLATION AND MISTRUST OF US AN WESTERN
INTENTION GROWS.

9. EVEN IF ATTAINMENT THESE LATTER OBJECTIVES SEEMS SOMEWHAT REMOTE
AT PRESENT, THEIR IMPORTANCE IS SUCH THAT WE BELIEVE IRANIAN SHOULD
BE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO SOMALIA IN SAME POSITIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH OUR
OWN RECENT DECISION TO ISSUE FINANCIAL HELP TO SOMALIA WASMADE.
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